



NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
312 8TH AVENUE NORTH, 11TH FLOOR
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243
[HTTP://WWW.TNECD.GOV](http://www.tnecd.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Date]

Contact: Valerie Somerville

Office: (615) 532-1925

E-mail: Valerie.Somerville@state.tn.us

[City or County] Earns Three-Star Certification

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Matthew Kisber announced that **[City or County]** has achieved certification under the state's Three-Star program for excellence in economic development.

“The Three-Star designation is the result of a great deal of hard work on the part of **[City or County]**,” Kisber said. “Three-Star communities know that sustainable economic development is always built on solid community development, and ECD is proud to support **[City or County]** in its dedication to long-term economic growth and success.”

[County] and the cities of **[Cities]** are now eligible to receive additional incentives under the guidelines of the Tennessee Three-Star program.

The Three-Star program has set high standards and incentives like no other state-run program in the nation. Governor Phil Bredesen's five-year asset-based economic development strategic plan is the cornerstone of the program. In 2005, the Southern Growth Policies Board, a bipartisan public policy think tank devoted to strengthening the South's economy, recognized the Three-Star program as a best practices program and a Southern leader in community certification programs.

Tennessee's Three-Star program helps urban and rural communities develop strategic economic and community development plans that meet the needs and challenges of an ever-changing economic environment. It helps communities preserve existing employment, create new employment opportunities, improve family income and develop a strong leadership base for economic development.

The Tennessee Three-Star Program, which is currently active in 88 counties and one city, represents more than 340 Tennessee cities.

“On behalf of ECD, I applaud **[City or county]** on its accomplishments and dedication to the Three-Star program,” said ECD Assistant Commissioner of Community Development Rick Meredith. “This prime demonstration of **[City or County]**'s commitment to economic development is indicative of more success to come.”

In order to receive the certification, communities are required to meet criteria in organizational, community, business, education and work force development categories. Incentives for receiving the certification include identification on all FastTrack infrastructure and job training applications; eligibility for matching grants, if criteria set by ECD are met; and the advantage of earning points in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

To view and download photos of **[City or County]** with Governor Bredesen and Commissioner Kisber at the **[Certification or Recertification]** ceremony, visit www.tn.gov/ecd and click the “Photo Gallery” button. To find out more information about the Three-Star program, visit www.tn.gov/ecd.

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